GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2753
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Soil Health Mission
Ahmed Shri Sultan ;Bidhuri Shri Ramesh;Birla Shri Om;Chautala Shri Dushyant;Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Dhruvanarayana Shri Rangaswamy;Diwakar Shri Rajesh Kumar;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Lekhi Smt. Meenakashi;Mahajan Smt. Poonam ;Nagar Shri Rodmal;Patil Shri A.T. (Nana);Sawaikar Shri Advocate Narendra Keshav;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh;Singh Shri Ravneet;Suresh Shri Doddaalahalli Kempegowda

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched new soil health mission for the benefit of farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Mission;

(c) the advantage of the new mission over the past mission launched by the Government;

(d) the number of soil health cards issued to the farmers in each State/UT during the last one year; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to create more soil testing laboratories in various parts of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Soil health Card Scheme has been launched during the year 2014-15 to issue soil health cards to all 14 crore farm holdings of the country in every 3 years of interval to address nutrient deficiencies in fertilization practices.

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Under the scheme, soil samples will be collected in a grid of 2.5 hectares in irrigated areas and 10 hectares grid in rainfed areas. Global Positioning System (GPS) based samples will be drawn & tested for 12 parameters namely pH, Electrical Conductivity (EC), Organic Carbon (OC), macro-nutrients (Nitrogen, Phosphorus & Potassium), secondary nutrients (Sulphur) and Micro-nutrients (Zinc, Boron, Iron Manganese & Copper). Soils Health Cards will be generated online along with fertilizer recommendation.

(c): The advantage of the new scheme are:-

(i) It is for the first time a uniform soil sampling method is introduced in all States across the country in a grid of 2.5 ha in irrigated areas and 10 ha in rainfed areas. GPS based sampling will allow monitoring of changes in soil health over the years.

(ii) Uniform soil testing methodology is being adopted to analyze 12 parameters viz. pH, EC, OC, Primary nutrients (NPK), secondary nutrients (S), micronutrients (Zn, B, Fe, Mn & Cu).

(iii) Uniform format for soil health card has been adopted. The Soil Health Card portal has been developed to generate and issue soil health cards based on General Fertilizer Recommendations provided by Agriculture Scientists.

(d): As on 09.12.2015, States have issued 66 lakh Soil Health Cards to farmers. State-wise details are given at Annexure.

(e): Under the ongoing scheme called Soil Health Management, financial assistance has been provided for 180 laboratories (103 Static and 77 Mobile) to States amounting to Rs.100 crores in two years 2014-15 & 2015-16 for setting up of Static/Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories and also strengthen the existing Static Soil Testing Laboratories.